

LITOSOMA WITE KREPKOGORSKAYA, 1933 (NEMATODA);  
PROPOSED CORRECTION TO LITOSOMA VITEAE.  
Z.N.(S.) 2203

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The purpose of this application is to ask the Commission to vary the original spelling of the specific name of a small filarial parasite of the great gerbil, *Rhombomys opimus* Lichtenstein, and of the jird, *Meriones libycus* Lichtenstein. This parasite, we suggest, should henceforth be known and written as *Dipetalonema viteae* (Krepkogorskaya, 1933). It belongs to the Nematoda, ONCHOCERCIDAE, and has become increasingly important in recent years as a laboratory model for screening new compounds for potential activity as filaricides in man. It figures largely in the current literature of medical parasitology and in the past has been referred to under a confusing variety of spellings, namely *wite*, *witei*, *vitei*, *vite*, and *viteae*.

2. The parasite was originally described by Krepkogorskaya (1933: 88). In her paper, which was written in German, the author stated that she named the parasite *Litosoma wite* in honour of Dr. Lydie I. Wite, the lady director of the Institute of Bacteriology in Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R.. The name *wite* was thus a transliteration into German of the lady's name written as ВИТЕ in the Cyrillic alphabet.

3. Since its first publication, the spelling of the name has been changed in the following ways: McIntosh & McIntosh (1935: 62) deliberately emended it to *L. witei*; Sassuchin, Tiflow & Schulz (1935: 636) used *L. vitei* as an incorrect subsequent spelling. Skriabin & Shikhobalova (1948: 227, not seen; 1949: 318) emended it to *vite* on the grounds that the Cyrillic B should be latinised as v, not as w; Chabaud (1952: 262) described a new species *Dipetalonema blanci* which he subsequently (1957: 342–343) synonymised with *Litosoma vite* in the new combination *Dipetalonema vite*; Geigy, Aeschlimann & Weiss (1967: 266)

emended it to *witeae*; finally Bain (1967: 212) gave reasons why the name should be spelled *viteae*.

4. Although under Article 32a of the Code there is no doubt that the spelling *wite* should stand as the "correct original spelling", since there is no evidence of incorrect formation under the Code, or of any inadvertent error, we ask, as an exception, for a ruling in favour of the spelling *viteae*. Our reasons for this request are as follows:

(a) if the original description were to be published today, it is the spelling *viteae* that would conform with the recommendations of the Code. The *v* would conform to paragraph 5 of Appendix C, since both the Cyrillic В and the German w are pronounced like the French *v*. The ending *-eae* would conform with Recommendation 31A of the Code, indicating that *ВИТЕ* in this instance denoted a female person and that the terminal E is not a mute vowel.

(b) It is important that the spelling of the name should lead to a uniform pronunciation when used by persons working with this parasite who are not familiar with the German pronunciation of the letter w. The spelling *viteae* gives this advantage, as well as conveying the correct indication of Dr. Wite's sex.

(c) On the basis of usage we also consider that the spelling *viteae* should take pride of place and we believe that it will attract the largest following among parasitologists. As evidence of this we list 23 papers marked with an asterisk in the References which mention this parasite in their titles and which are revealed by the computerised bibliography in preparation at the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Filarioidea (at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) to be the total of those published on the subject since 1970. In all of them the name of the parasite is cited as *Dipetalonema viteae*.

5. In order to ensure stability in the scientific name of this parasite, which is widely used as a laboratory test model in medical research, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to:

(1) use its plenary powers

(a) to suppress the original spelling *wite* Krepkogorskaya, 1933, as published in the binomen *Litosoma wite*;

(b) to rule that the spelling *viteae* is the correct original spelling of that name;

(2) to place the specific name *viteae* Krepkogorskaya, 1933, as validated under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above in the binomen *Litosoma viteae*, on the Official List of

## Specific Names in Zoology:

- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
- (a) *wite* Krepkogorskaya, 1933, as published in the binomen *Litosoma wite*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above;
  - (b) *witei* McIntosh & McIntosh, 1935, as published in the binomen *Litosoma witei* (an unjustified emendation of *viteae* Krepkogorskaya, 1933, as validated under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above in the binomen *Litosoma viteae*);
  - (c) *vitei* Sassuchin, Tiflow & Schulz, 1935, as published in the binomen *Litosoma vitei* (an incorrect subsequent spelling of *viteae* Krepkogorskaya, 1933, as validated under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above in the binomen *Litosoma viteae*);
  - (d) *vite* Skrjabin & Shikhobalova, 1945, as published in the binomen *Litosoma vite* (an unjustified emendation of *viteae* Krepkogorskaya, 1933, as validated under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above in the binomen *Litosoma viteae*).

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